

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## World Changers make local house calls

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

"Excuse me, sir," said the young lady as she pulled up in front of Madison Central High School in Madison, "what do you have to do to be a World Changer?"

The girl, a student at Madison Central, had seen all the activity as the school served as a headquarters for close to 300 junior high through college age students who descended on metro Jackson as part of the World Changers program July 5-12.

"These kids look like they're having so much fun, and it looks like something I'd like to do one day," she said.

The student had observed something very special. While many of her peers were spending the summer sleeping in, hanging out at the mall, or flipping burgers, 23,000 other youth were giving up a week or so of their time doing what most would consider hard labor — at their own expense.

These are World Changers, members of a volunteer mobilization ministry of the North American Mission Board in Atlanta.

After 12 years of projects, World Changers has seen over 100,000 students renovate and repair more than 7,000 homes in some 350 communities worldwide. The ministry has made a significant difference in the lives of many who would never be able to meet their own housing repair needs.

This year, World Changers has served or will serve at three projects in Mississippi: Hattiesburg, June 7-14; Jackson, July 5-12; and Meridian, July 19-25.

Students participating in the Jackson project endured typical Mississippi July weather: temperatures in the 90's and occasional sudden thunderstorms. The students took the difficult conditions in stride.

Danny Anderson, from Boiling Springs, N.C., was perched atop a ladder, drill in hand. "World Changers gives me a chance



WHILE THE SUN SHINES — Students participating in this year's World Changers project in Jackson celebrate a few moments of fair weather during an otherwise rainy day to work on a leaking roof. More than 300 students participated in the volunteer summer missions work in the metro Jackson. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

to get out and make a difference," he said. "I don't have any particular construction skills, but they told me that if I could drive a nail they could use me."

During one downpour, several students took shelter on the porch of their project home. Emily Trantham, Waynesboro, N.C., huddled close as thunder roared close by.

"I've done projects like this with my church back home," she said, "but with World Changers, you get to meet kids from all over the country. It's just a great way to show people the love of Christ."

Ron Willett, Franklin Church, Flora, was a construction supervisor on the Jackson World Changers project.

"In 1989 I was teaching RAs," said Willett, "and the missions magazine for them had an article about World Changers. I read that and thought, 'There's something I could do.' Then, the next year in The Baptist Record, there was a request from Jim Didlake saying they needed help on World Changers in Vicksburg."

"I've been crew chief for four years, and this is my third year as supervisor. It's been a great experience for the kids," Willett stated.

Students pay an average of \$245 to participate in World Changers, taking part in a variety of home improvement and cleanup tasks including repairing roofs, painting, installing drywall, pouring cement, and planting flowers.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

BCV has interim director

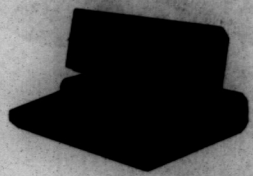
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# A generation in need of role models

**D**ear Britney — I have followed your career with a great deal of interest, mainly because of your Mississippi connections. From your home just across the border in Louisiana, you made the short drive up Interstate 55 North to attend Parklane Academy in McComb. Just a little research (actually, a conversation with a local resident) uncovered your favorite Chinese restaurant in McComb, where you have been spotted frequently since you hit the big time. I know these things and much, much more about you — your family members, your favorite color, the foods of which you are fondest — because I have an 11-year-old daughter. I have an 11-year-old daughter who, like every other 11-year girl in America, adores you. She knows the words to all your songs. She has all your fan magazines. She tries to keep up with you as you sing and dance across the television screen. She has eaten in that favorite Chinese restaurant of yours.

You can do no wrong in her eyes. Early on in your career, I would point out to her how hard you had worked and how perseverant you had been to reach your goals. I explained to her how you combined talent and determination to get where you wanted to go in life. I even read to her the articles in which you unashamedly admitted to being a virgin and vowed to remain sexually pure until marriage.

"See," I told my daughter after reading the articles, "if Britney has the character to do the right thing, you can too." She believed me because she believed in you.

Then came last week's shattering news. "Singer who said she'd wait admits to sex with Timberlake," screamed one headline. "Britney Spears: I'm not a virgin," boasted another. Based on your recent interview with W Magazine, the news media breathlessly reported your explanation: "I've only slept with one person in my whole life. It was two years into my relationship with Justin, and I thought he was the one. But I was wrong!"

I wonder if you know how much harm you have done. Yes, I recall your protestations that you were no one's role model, and that you refused to accept the job.

Sadly, it is getting more and more difficult to protect the Christian community from the negative values of the secular culture. Changing secular views and progressively more liberal on issues such as divorce, premarital sex, and unethical business practices are pervasive and unchecked in the entertainment industry.

In a quick check, I found 32 Bible verses enjoining man to revere God; and in Exodus 20, God commands man not to misuse His name. Unfortunately, the Ten Commandments have not gotten much play in Hollywood since the 1956 film by the same name.

Regarding the fourth commandment alone, God's name or His Son's is followed by a curse word — or used by itself as an exclamation to relieve frustration — in more films than not now playing in theaters. Unfortunately, for me to share with you through my information ministry about movies and other entertainment forms, I often have to endure such assaults against

"I REMEMBER BEING YOUR AGE, HONEY—  
WHY DO YOU THINK I PRAY SO  
HARD FOR YOU?"



Problem is, you can't refuse the job. No one can. I can't. You can't. Not even the President of the United States or the world's from popular Top 40 singer can refuse the job. When we reach for the stars, the role model job follows shortly thereafter. It's an immutable law, like the laws of physics.

For sure, you can rebel and do whatever you please. You can include raunchy stripper costumes in your show and gyrate like a biblical prostitute for your latest video, but you're still a role model. You can even admit to premarital sex, but you're still a role model — just for the wrong things.

That's the part of celebrity I don't understand. A person like you works all her life to grab the public's attention, and then protests that the public is paying too close attention. If you didn't want fame and fortune and the responsibility of being a role model, why did you work so hard to get there?

It's not a game for girls like my 11-year-old daughter. She believes you are a real

person, singing from your heart into her life. Children are impressionable like that. They don't understand the part where you don't want to be their role model.

You're not the first role model to go back on your word, or disappoint your most loyal fans. We're all only human. However, I can't help but wonder how many little girls who look up to you will follow your lead into the heartbreak of sexual immorality. If your virginity meant so little to you, why should it matter to them?

You have made my job as a father infinitely more difficult. In a perverse world that sees females like you and my daughter merely as throwaway instruments of empty pleasure — which is precisely what you were — how am I to convince her she is instead a person of infinite worth to her Heavenly Father?

You can be sure I'll keep trying, but you might want to think about that the next time you tell someone you're nobody's role model.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Hollywood's assaults on our morals, values

By Phil Boatwright, movie critic  
Thousand Oaks, California

my spiritual nature in order to inform and equip you to make good entertainment choices.

While recently viewing the new movie Hollywood Homicide, I cringed through at least 20 such blasphemous utterances by Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett, causing me to think about Ford's entire body of work, and just why I liked the talented actor — given these numerous affronts to my God.

I concluded that he has used such language in the majority of his films and quite frankly, I'm at a loss to explain why I or other Christians would support an entertainer who blatantly shows little reverence for God.

I am concerned about accountability for my entertainment choices and those by my fellow Believers.

This whole subject tends to sting me a little bit, but it's an important discussion given the findings of recent studies. According to a statement made on a recent airing of James Dobson's Focus on the Family radio show, only 13% of Americans base moral decisions on biblical teachings. Even more disturbing is the fact that, according to Dobson, only 32% of those who are born again believe in absolute truth. Moreover, only six percent of Christian teens believe in absolute truth.

Truth and virtue have become as relative within the Church it seems as it is in the world. Progressively liberal views have crept into our homes and our hearts, because we have allowed them to creep into our ears and our eyes. What once was disavowed as deleterious is now accepted as artistic expression or as personal freedom.

So many of the hedonistic abuses that now overwhelm our culture are symptoms of a serious spiritual sickness: the lack of veneration for our Creator. Let's not endanger our spiritual health by corrupting our relationship with the Father — not for entertainment or any other reason.

Even in our entertainment, we should seek to honor God. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory" 1 Corinthians 10:31 (HCSB).

Boatwright, a regular Baptist Press columnist, is editor and film reviewer for The Movie Reporter. For more information concerning his ministry, go to [www.moviereporter.com](http://www.moviereporter.com).



# BSUers fan out for spring break missions

By Nina Simmons  
Correspondent

Across the state of Mississippi, college students are answering the call to missions with an emphatic "Yes Lord, I will go." As many as ten different states were targeted by BSU mission trips during spring break of this year.

Chris Burrows, Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, said his group paired with students from Mississippi College in Clinton, University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and East Central Community College in Decatur to endure the cold northern wind of Vermont.

"We will remember Spring Break 2003 as seven degrees below zero, four feet of snow on the ground, four additional inches of snowfall on Sunday morning, and a mission field unrivaled in the continental United States," he said.

"We have been fortunate to spend spring breaks doing mission work all over the United States, but I don't know if you can go anywhere with as many opportunities to serve as Vermont" said Scott Vaughn, Director of the East Central Community College BSU.

Jerry Smith, an Iuka native who has served seven years as the pastor of the Baptist Fellowship in the small town of Randolph, Vt., led the group. "It's exciting to see what Jesus is doing here; I don't look at Vermont as having obstacles, I

look at Vermont and I see opportunity," he said.

The Mississippi BSU team distributed New Testaments on the city streets of Randolph, as well as the surrounding towns. While the team was prohibited from distributing New Testaments and

Enough "down time" was scheduled for the group to get in a session that included snowmobiles, sledding, and a visit to the famous ice cream maker Ben and Jerry's. The team also managed to briefly explore the towns of Barre and Montpelier.



**FROSTY MISSIONS** — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union team on mission in Vermont during their spring break huddle with Vermont collegians to stay warm in the decidedly non-Mississippi temperatures they encountered as they worked with Baptists college students in the state. Mississippi BSUers were in as many as ten states during spring breaks at the various Mississippi universities, colleges, and community colleges. (BR photo)

tracts on the property of the schools, the teams met students on the streets during the students' walk home from school.

Jonathon Barnard, one of the BSU team members said they were advised to keep a safe distance from the school and not to obstruct traffic in front of any businesses. "It was the first time in my life I ever offered a Bible to somebody and have them turn it down and walk away from me," said Barnard. "It gives you a real appreciation for the members at the Baptist Fellowship in Randolph; they have to deal with issues and circumstances that we never think about."

"We had a great time, but my only regret is we didn't do even more for the church," said Dustin Tutor, another team member.

The Itawamba team included Britt Clark of Hamilton, Heather Wilson of Hamilton, Melissa Marion of Amory, Suzanne Mansel of New Albany, Leisa Nelson of Woodland, Susan Hodges of Columbus, Amanda Garrett of Aberdeen, Walt Barnes of Mantachie, Jonathan Barnard of Mooreville, Dustin Tutor of Pontotoc, Cullen Dendy of Houlika, and Scooter Kellum of Amory.

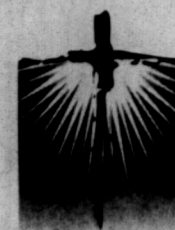
"We appreciate the funding provided to us by the leadership of Mississippi. Our students not only have a better understanding about missions by spending time in Vermont, but they have a better understanding of the financial emphasis on missions by Southern Baptist in Mississippi," Burrows said.

Each student received financial assistance from the Margaret Lackey State Mission

Offering for the mission experience. Mississippi BSU work is also supported by gifts to the state's Cooperative Program.

Also serving in the region were BSU members from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Students paired with Blake Hardcastle, Baptist Student Ministries Director at University of Delaware, to reach out to various churches in the Newark area including Oggleton Church, Friendship Church, and Bethany Church.

Each student who participated became part of The Net witness training which included tips and scripture references on how to tell your personal story of salvation. "Each student put their training to great use during the week," said Liz Thurmond, associate director



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THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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of the Ole Miss BSU. She also said that most students expressed how wonderful and easy it was to talk with peers of their own age about their faith.

"The Net thing was great, and I now know that if I can share my faith this easily with a complete stranger, then I can do it with anyone," said Nicole Bridges of Newton.

According to the group, everyday was filled with tangible ways of demonstrating God's love to students and faculty. In turn of helping to meet a physical need, the door was opened to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Other members of the group included Liz Alexander of Southaven, Mark Bond of Perkinston, Sharra Adderholt of Slatton, Kate Harrington of Ridgeland, Curt Minton of Oxford, Leah Smith of Tupelo, Lindsey Spencer of Mathiston, Tiffany Sumrall of Perkinston, Erika Tullos of Philadelphia, and Russ Waites of Hattiesburg.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Operation Rescue volunteers blanket noon luncheon-goers at First Church, Jackson, with leaflets on their "Cities of Refuge" campaign and other pro-life material, hoping to recruit workers from the 450 people at the church's weekly Bible study for men.

### 20 years ago

A sexual discrimination lawsuit brought against the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission in Memphis is dismissed by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A nine year employee of the Commission had filed suit claiming sexual harassment and defamation.

### 50 years ago

Wyatt R. Hunter celebrates his fifteenth anniversary as pastor of First Church, McComb. During that time, there were 1596 additions to the church, and Sunday School enrollment grew from 796 to 1280.



## Wal-Mart sets policy on homosexuals

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (BP) — Following the requests of several homosexual Wal-Mart employees and an investor, the nation's largest private employer has amended its anti-discrimination policy to protect homosexual employees. Wal-Mart Stores, with more than one million employees in the United States, sent a letter July 2 to its 3,500 stores to inform them of the changes, The New York Times reported.

The new policy states, in part, "We affirm our commitment and pledge our support to equal opportunity employment for all qualified persons, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or status as a veteran or sexual orientation."

With Wal-Mart's latest move, nine of the 10 largest Fortune 500 companies now have anti-discrimination policies protecting homosexuals, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a gay rights group in Washington, D.C., that monitors discrimination policies and laws. The one company to abstain is Exxon Mobil.

The HRC also reports that 318 of the Fortune 500 companies have anti-discrimination policies favorable to homosexuals. Wal-Mart still does not provide coverage for domestic partners of its employees while 197 of the Fortune 500 companies do have domestic partners benefits, according to HRC.

# BCV board taps interim, names committee

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

One of Mississippi's most recognizable Baptists has agreed to serve as interim executive director of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) following the June 24 resignation of longtime director Ronnie Robinson.

Bill Causey of Clinton, retired former executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was appointed July 12 during a special meeting of the BCV board of trustees in which a search committee was also named to seek a permanent replacement for Robinson.

Browney Crawford, chairman of the BCV board and a member of First Church, Water Valley, said the board was pleased that Causey had responded affirmatively to their request that he serve as head of the Village while the search committee does its job. "We're on solid ground now and going forward with the appointment of Dr. Causey and the search committee," he said.

"I want to call Mississippi Baptists to prayer for this important process," Crawford added. "Mississippi Baptists' prayers and support will be crucial during this transition period."

The resignations of Robinson, BCV executive director for 14 years, and Henry Glaze, executive assistant for programs and a 29-year staffer at the Village, were accepted during the June 24 quarterly meeting of the board.

"Trustees present at the quarterly meeting were united in their decision that a change in leadership for the Baptist

Children's Village was in the best interest of the agency at this time," according to a statement released by the board on June 26. The statement did not elaborate further on the resignations.

"Past administrations at the Village have been marvelous people who set a strong example of leadership in the care of children in crisis. During my interim appointment, we will continue to provide that level of quality and character in the care of those children," said Causey, who pastored Parkway Church in Jackson for 26 years prior to his seven-year stint at the helm of the state convention board. Parkway Church has since moved to Clinton.

"Our needs at present are for Mississippi Baptists to continue to pray for the Village and continue to support it as they have done so generously in the past, in order for us to be able to provide the best care available for these special children entrusted to us," Causey pointed out.

In a July 7 interview at the offices of The Baptist Record, Robinson said, "It has been a high honor to serve God and Mississippi



Causey

Baptists for the past 14 years as executive director of the Baptist Children's Village. I have been blessed beyond measure by the love, prayers, and support given to me and to the Village by so many of you.

"The mission of the Baptist Children's Village will continue. Anyone who knows me knows I will be praying daily for the children of the Village and for the dedicated staff who consistently reflect the love of Christ, often under the most difficult of circumstances. I urge Mississippi Baptists to continue to support them."

Members of the search committee, chosen from the larger body of BCV trustees, include:

- Billy Pyron of Natchez (chairman).
- Ruth Thomas of Clinton.
- Robert King of Jackson.
- Austin Moore of Southaven.
- Browney Crawford, board president and ex-officio member.

To correspond with the search committee or for more information on BCV programs, contact the Village at P.O. Box 27, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 922-2242.

## First person: Needs great in vast Idaho territory

By Erica Harms  
BSU Summer Missionary

First in a series

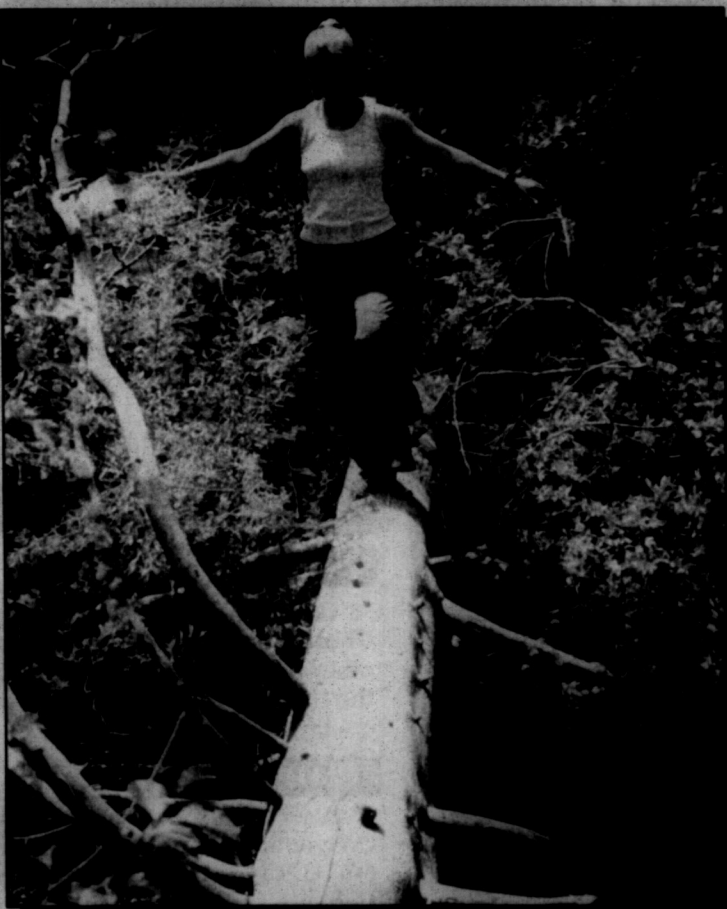
Every day on the mission field is an eye-opening adventure. My ministry here in Idaho is twofold. I am working with Eastside Church in Twin Falls, one of only two Baptist churches in the area, and building a foundation for an outreach organization called Wilderness Adventure Ministries (WAM).

Because outdoor activities are so prevalent here, WAM is a 10-year dream of Paul Thompson, pastor of Eastside Church that has finally become a reality this summer. It offers chances for spiritually-lost students who would never attend a church activity to go on a three-day, 26-mile backpacking trip in the Sawtooth Mountains. My team of five college students had our training backpack trip last week to prepare to take our first group of students to the wilderness with us.

Nothing about that trip was safe! I knew I would be hiking in the mountains when I obeyed God and came to Idaho, but having been raised in the South, I didn't know exactly what that meant. Wearing a 42-pound backpack, I found myself walking along the cliff of the mountain 8,000 feet above sea level on nothing but loose rocks. One wrong step could have meant the end during the moments when the trail was no wider than a balance beam.

We also backpacked down into the valley along the Smokey Creek - an adventure of its own. Before we finished, we had walked across eight logs that had fallen over the

freezing river rushing below and had encountered our share of large bull snakes. These challenges allowed me to see what the body of Christ is supposed to look like, because I could not have conquered the hike without constant encouragement from my teammates. Where one was weak, another was strong.



CAREFUL STEPS — Erica Harms, a Mississippi College student serving as a Mississippi Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Idaho, concentrates on one of the many hazardous log crossings encountered while backpacking through the state's Sawtooth Mountains range 8,000 feet above sea level. (BR photo)

In the past year, I have learned that when Satan can't get you spiritually, he will try to physically. By the time the second night of camping on the mountain had rolled around, I had a large knot in my right foot and seven blisters on my toes, making each downward step a painful process. Over and over, I claimed Habakkuk 3:19 which says, "The Lord is my strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He enables me to go on the heights."

The Lord has been my strength both on and off the mountain. When I left Mississippi College for the famous Potato State, I quickly sensed a spiritual dryness in this part of the country. Satan has blinded thousands of people here with the lie of Mormonism.

I met Norma Fox, who directs missions development for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. Raised in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, she converted to Christianity and has immediate family members that refuse to speak with her because she did so. Every week in Sunday school, one of my students will either ask me to pray for his Mormon friend or ask how I know what I believe and not what Mormons believe is correct. The spiritual battle against Mormonism is so visible.

The Lord has called me to a land this summer where the harvest is plentiful. Hiking through the rugged wilderness or working with the youth at the church, I know that God has placed me in Idaho for such a time as this.

Harms is a Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) Summer Missionary to Idaho. BSU summer missionaries raise their own funds for summer missions, and are supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



## BUDGET BURDENS

If the first six months are any indication of what the second six months of this year holds, Mississippi Baptists will not reach their budget goal. Like so many other groups in our society — religious, secular, governmental — we have seen a downturn in support. The dollars that flow through the Cooperative Program across our state to touch the world have diminished. As of right now, it looks as though we may fall short of the budget by over a half-million dollars.

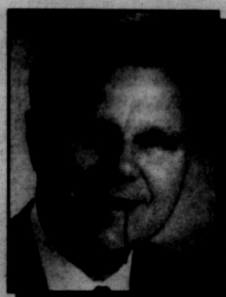
Of course, we do not spend what we do not have, and there is no crisis except as the funds reduce the anticipated programs and support to our convention, our institutions and agencies, and our mission across the world. Anyone who is awake and alert can easily surmise that what we and many others are seeing is just a reflection of the economic indicators being on the downside: unemployment, low-interest yields, and uncertainty about the future. All these play havoc with our day to day living.

But, for us as Mississippi Baptists, who are involved in Kingdom impact, there are some other factors that probably are affecting us even more than the general economy. Let me ask you to think about these in relationship to your church and what can be done for missions.

- Factor number one that is problematic is **DEBT**. While many of our churches are doing great, growing, seeing a revitalized spirit, and are reaching out to capture a new vision, that often translates into an increased debt load that may be crippling. Just in Mississippi our Baptist churches, in the past five years, have gone from having a debt of 80 million dollars to a debt of 186 million dollars. That is no small step in a short period of time, and unquestionably, it does affect our ability to live and give.

When budget time and prioritizing is being considered, debt steps to the front of the line and says, "Give me my portion!" Debt can say to everything and everybody — to local programming, to personnel needs, to mission vision — "Line up behind me!"

- A second factor that is affecting the Cooperative Program Giving is **DRUGS**. No, I'm not talking about the kind that you buy from a Pharmacist, or that some folks buy on the streets; but, we have seen over the last decade the percentage amount given through the Cooperative Program "drug" down, and down, and down! It has been true across the Southern Baptist Convention and it is true in Mississippi. While we have seen a different kind of decline than some other states, it is still in a decline. The percentage



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

amount has been "drug" down from 11% in 1993, to 9.7% of undesignated receipts given this year.

We have watched as a number of factors have changed the percentage giving through the Cooperative Program. Some of our churches have wanted to do more direct, hands-on kind of mission activities and have diverted dollars from the Cooperative Program in order to accomplish that. Others have just struggled with the downturn in the economy in their own church budget and found it either easy, or at least necessary, to take dollars away from Cooperative Program mission giving and use it to cover other needs.

Of the 2,100 churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 582 of them give 10% or over to the Cooperative Program from their undesignated

receipts and 1,518 of churches give less than 10%. To show you how significant this is in the overall mission giving to the Cooperative Program, if churches had continued to give percentage wise at 10% and it had not dropped to 9.7%, we would be reaching or exceeding budget. If "drugs" continue to impact giving, every aspect of our work will be affected and potentially harmed.

- The final factor is **DUMBNESS**. I'm not talking about Mississippi Baptist people being dumb, for this is a factor for which I take responsibility. Again and again I run into the fact that so many of our people and so many of our churches do not realize the enormous amount of Kingdom good and effective service to our Lord that is done with

the money that comes through the Cooperative Program.

Last year a total of \$5,341,471 was given by Mississippi Baptist Churches to support our over 5,000 international missionaries and \$2,310,568 went to support the training of ministers in our six Southern Baptist Seminaries. When you give through the Cooperative Program, you sustain the Baptist Student Work that takes place every day all during school at 33 locations across our state. You help provide childcare to every needy child that is touched by the ministry of the Baptist Children's Village. You strengthen Christ-centered education that is provided at our three Mississippi Baptist Colleges. You enable churches to be started and our people to be aided to go on mission to strategic spots across the state and around the world. You help sustain providing mission projects going on in every association across our state.

This only begins to tell the story that seems to be untold. I want you to know because you have been faithful in providing the resources to enable it to happen.

## Warren book tops awards at ECPA

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — The Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., has been named the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) Book of the Year for 2003. Two books published by the Broadman & Holman (B&H) division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, meanwhile, received Gold Medallion awards during the ECPA's July 12 banquet held in conjunction with the Christian Booksellers Association's annual convention in Orlando, Fla.

The B&H winners are Oliver North's inaugural novel, *Mission Compromised*; and *Experiencing God Together* by Henry Blackaby and Melvin Blackaby in Christian ministry category.

## Seminarian details persecution at home

PHOENIX (BP) — An eyewitness to the persecution of Christians at the hands of Muslim extremists in Indonesia has challenged Southern Baptists to intervene with the Gospel. "In Maluku and some other parts of Indonesia, Christians are being persecuted because... radical Muslim groups... realize the Christian faith is growing incredibly in Indonesia," Ronnie Serworwora told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix June 18.

He talked with International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin before an estimated 4,000 attendees during the final session of the annual meeting. Serworwora, currently a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, testified about the persecution he and other Christians have experienced in Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population.

"For more than four years Christians [in Indonesia's Maluku Islands] suffered cruel attacks from... Jihad holy warriors," Serworwora said. "At least 300 churches were burned down and thousands of Christians were killed there. My uncle was one of the victims."

Muslim extremists are trying to wipe out Christianity in the Maluku Islands because they believe that Islam can triumph over all other religions in Indonesia, Serworwora said. "But there still was a message: 'If we are for Christ, I believe the world will turn to Christ as well.'"

His testimony was met with handshakes and hugs by Bible relatives. Torched homes, blood, and political instability. Loving one another. Many Christians have had to flee to higher mountains to avoid capture, Serworwora said.

Christians who are caught are forced to convert to Islam and then forcibly circumcised — both men and women. Radical groups are trying to force Indonesian believers to live under "Sharia" law, the Islamic code for conduct and punishment for crime, he added.



**EYEWITNESS TO PERSECUTION** — Christians in Indonesia who are suffering atrocities at the hands of Muslim extremists need Southern Baptists to intervene with the gospel, eyewitness Ronnie Serworwora (right) told International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix June 18. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Serworwora grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, where his family and church experienced persecution as well. "We thought that we would have to move from that area... but God told our family, 'No, you have to stay there and still be My witness.'"

Physical and financial hardships affecting all Indonesians have worsened the suffering of Indonesian Christians, Serworwora said. "People in Indonesia are suffering because of famine, disasters and economic crisis," he said. "Millions of people are blessed by Southern Baptist world hunger funds, and we are thankful to God for that. But there are still millions of people who need your help."

"The doors are wide open for your missionaries, for your church mission team to come to Indonesia," Serworwora said.

"Don't be afraid to come to Indonesia. There is no safe place in this world but in heaven."

Right now, there are millions of Christians in this world facing the persecution. Are you, Southern Baptist, your brother's keeper? Yes, you should be!

Listen to his testimony. Low-speed connection: [http://roan.implex.net/alliedaughn/IMB/SBC03/ronnie\\_low.wma](http://roan.implex.net/alliedaughn/IMB/SBC03/ronnie_low.wma). High-speed connection: [http://roan.implex.net/alliedaughn/IMB/SBC03/ronnie\\_high.wma](http://roan.implex.net/alliedaughn/IMB/SBC03/ronnie_high.wma).

More on Indonesian persecution:  
• Oppressed Ambon Christians cry out to God for relief: <http://imb.org/core/story.asp?id=610>.

• Christian woman recalls horror of forced conversion: <http://imb.org/core/story.asp?id=652>.

• Muslim militia killing Christians in Indonesia: <http://imb.org/core/story.asp?id=738>.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Ebenezer Church, Liberty** held VBS June 16-21. Pictured are the participants.



**Ebenezer VBS Participants, Liberty**

### B. Stevens dies June 22

Bonnie Pierce Stevens, 64, died June 22 at the North Mississippi Medical Center after extended illness. Burial was in the Saltillo Cemetery.

Stevens was born in Tupelo and attended the Freewill Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn. She assisted her husband, Jerry W. Stevens, in the ministry at Midway Church, Pontotoc; First Church, Nicholson; Calvary Church, Columbus; and the Winston County Association.

Survivors include two daughters, Sheri Moon and Traci Dobbs; mother, Irene Haas Pierce; grandchildren, Lauren and Stephanie Price, and Allison, Jonathan, and Lindsey Dobbs, and Nathan Moon.

Memorials may be made to the Jerry W. Stevens Ministries Scholarship Fund at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, 38610, or the Freewill Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.

for the Carver Baptist Mission Center, New Orleans, La. Pictured (from left) are Amanda Meeler and Herbert Martin, director of Carver.



**First Church Kids Kamp Participants, Brandon**

Mac and Sunny Haik, Houston, donated a K. Kawai Grand Piano to Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, in honor of Frances Haik Jordan and in memory of Charles L. Jordan.

Charlotte Smith presented a concert on the new piano June 1. Pictured (from left, front) Stan Buckley, pastor, Frances Haik Jordan, Mac Haik, (back) Eddie Smith, Charlotte Smith, and Alex Craft.

**Improve Church, Columbia**, recently recognized their GAs and RAs with a service and reception. They were presented with their badges and certificates. Hiram Campbell is pastor.

**First Church, Brandon**, held Kids Kamp at Twin Lakes, Florence, recently. A total of 262 attended the camp. Beth S. Allen is the minister of children. Pictured are the 3rd and 4th graders.

The GAs and RAs of **First Church, Brandon**, raised \$1,010

**Thrasher Church, Booneville**, held VBS June 2-6. Lori Johnson was the director and Lynsol B. Richmond is pastor.

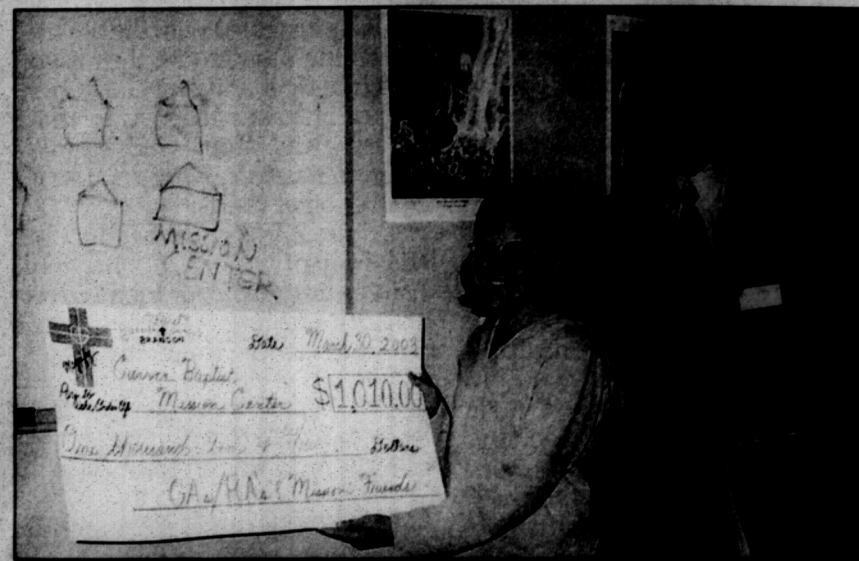
**Grandview Church, Pearl**, will hold VBS July 20-24. Times will be Sunday from 5:30-8 p.m. and Mon.-Fri. from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with supper at 6 p.m.



**Improve Church GAs & RAs, Columbia**



**Thrasher Church VBS Participants, Booneville**



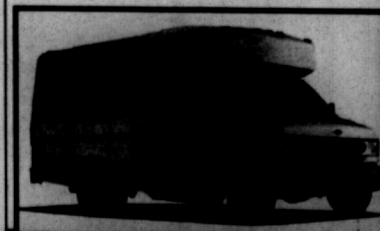
**Amanda Meeler and Herbert Martin, director of Carver**



**Buckley, Jordan, Haik, Smith, Smith, and Craft**

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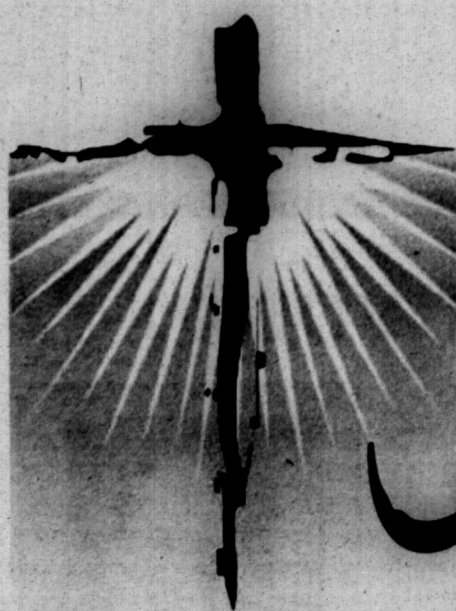
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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

# Missions Mobilization

VOL. IV, NO. II

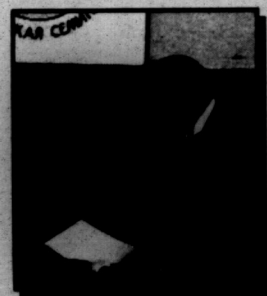
SUMMER 2003



**PURPOSE:**  
TO PROVIDE AN  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
VOLUNTEERS  
TO USE THEIR SKILLS  
TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST  
THROUGH MISSION  
PARTNERSHIPS.

## Rhodes receives honorary doctorate in Ukraine

Ken Rhodes, Director of Missions Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, received an honorary doctorate from Odessa Theological Seminary during graduation exercises on June 7 in Odessa, Ukraine.



Gregory Komendant (right) presents honorary doctorate to Ken Rhodes.

The doctorate, given jointly by the Odessa Seminary and the Ukraine Baptist Union, was presented by Gregory Komendant, president of the Ukraine Baptist Union and the European Baptist Federation, and Odessa Seminary president Vladimir Shemchishin.

In presenting the doctorate, both Komendant and Shemchishin stated their appreciation for the work of Mississippi Baptist volunteers in Ukraine over the past five years of partnering. The doctorate was accepted by Rhodes in honor of Mississippians who have faithfully given themselves through ministry in Ukraine.

Mississippians attending the graduation were: Kirby and Linda Smith, IMB missionaries from Florence; Ray Trantham, a Mississippian and teacher at Odessa Seminary.

Linda Gray, a Mississippian, strategy coordinator for the International Mission Board in Odessa, was also in attendance.

A total of 46 diplomas and degrees were awarded during graduation. The graduates represented six

countries - Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tadzhikistan.

Prior to graduation, Rhodes attended the Odessa Seminary Board of Trustees meeting on June 6.

Ken Rhodes (at podium) addresses graduation audience after receiving the honorary doctorate. Standing beside him is interpreter Yuri from Kiev, Ukraine. (Photos by Linda Smith, IMB Volunteer Coordinator in Odessa, Ukraine.)



## Summer 2003 finds Mississippi Baptists serving in the Northeast USA and throughout the World!

Please hold these summer missionaries up in prayer as they share God's love around the world this summer.

Ray and Pat Spence - Union Church, Union - East Asia  
Christy Carley - Mississippi College BSU minister - Southeast Asia  
Matthew Henley - First Church, Florence - Vermont  
Jake Waits - Holcomb Church, Holcomb - Maryland  
Wayne Crenshaw - Smith Association, Smith County - Vermont  
Candise Taylor - Cleary Church, Florence - Thailand  
Mary Martha Love - Lake Washington Church, Lake Washington - Thailand  
Priscilla Pulliam - Morrison Heights Church, Clinton - Ukraine  
Michelle Roark - First Church, Yazoo City - Ukraine  
Kelly Webb - Vaiden Church, Vaiden - Toronto, Canada  
Andrew Baskin - Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch - Russia  
Trey Clenney - Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch - Zambia  
Brandon Penninger - Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch - Zambia  
Jennifer Sparling - Highland Church, Laurel - Unpublished  
Amy Ledbetter - East Heights, Tupelo - Unpublished  
Imogene Leake - Liberty Church, Library - Baltimore  
Carol Peck - Liberty Church, Library - Baltimore  
Faye and Ray Huff - New Zion Church, Crystal Springs - Rhode Island  
(These are in addition to journeymen, student summer missionaries, mission service corps workers.)

### Missions Mobilization Celebration

First Baptist Church, Jackson  
Celebration Banquet  
November 14, 2003

Mississippi Baptist Convention  
Board Building  
November 15, 2003  
Area Conferences

For more information, please contact  
the MBCB Missions Mobilization Dept.



"Our intent in this newsletter is to allow you to hear a few of the thank yous received ..."

*Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB  
Missions Mobilization*

## On mission – God is at work

*By Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB Missions Mobilization*

Our intent in this newsletter is to allow you to hear a few of the thank yous received from Mississippians assisted in volunteer experiences. We also want you to see and hear a few examples of thank yous received from those who are recipients of volunteer service from Mississippi Baptists.

We are fortunate

enough in the Missions Mobilization office to hear the thank yous first hand. However, the expressions of gratitude we receive belong to all Mississippi Baptists who contribute regularly through Cooperative Program gifts and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

The receiving of the honorary doctorate from the Odessa Theological Seminary was not in recognition of my work only. It

was an expression of thanks to those who helped establish the partnership with Ukraine and the hundreds of volunteers who have worked unselfishly in Ukraine.

This presentation was the Ukrainians' special way of saying, "Thanks Mississippi Baptists." I join with them and say thanks to Mississippi Baptists for your missions heart. Thanks for allowing me to serve you in mobilization.

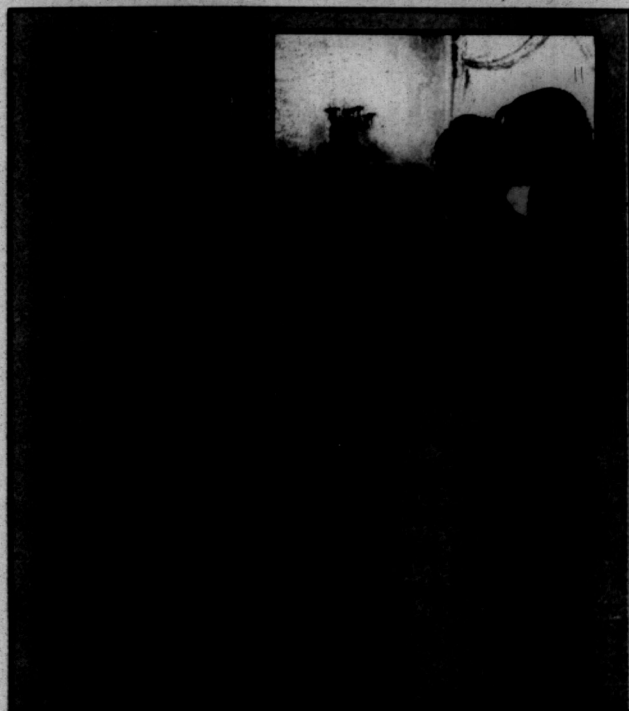


*Mississippi Mission Service Corps volunteers Richard and Judy Ford from First Baptist Church, Louisville, lead a children Vacation Bible School group at Virginia Avenue Church in Hagerstown, Md. This picture was taken during the mission story time as Richard shares about Rachel Sims Baptist Center in New Orleans, La.*



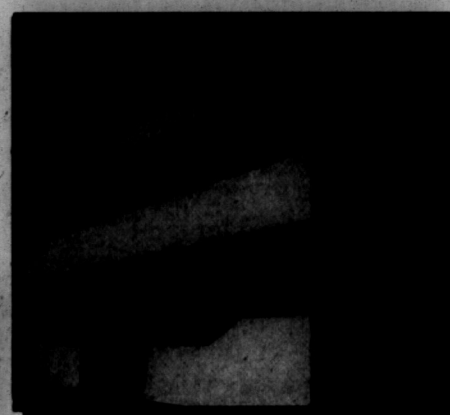
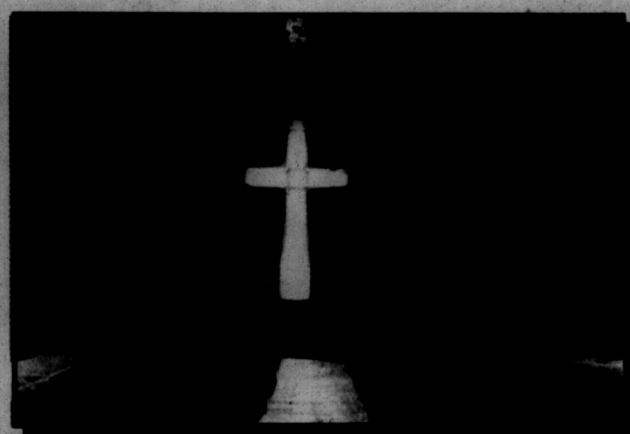


# Mississippians impact Sanjeko, Ukraine

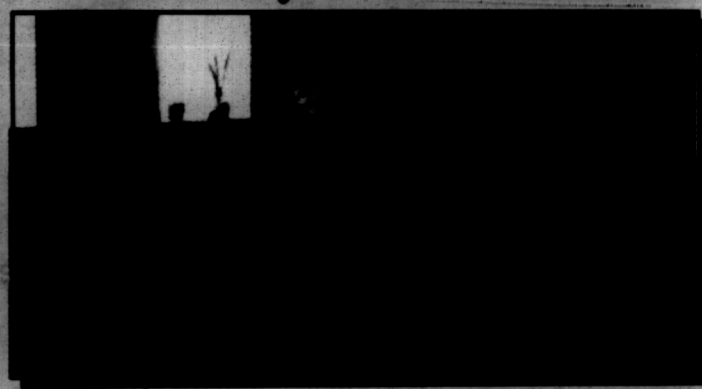


*Below: The top floor of Sanjeko Church will eventually be completed and serve as sanctuary. Presently this floor is being used for fellowship and Bible study.*

*Photos by Linda Smith, IMB Volunteer Coordinator in Odessa, Ukraine.*



*Above: Mississippi volunteers have assisted with the development of the children's and youth camp at Sanjeko, Ukraine. Pictured is one of the buildings purchased and built with Mississippi assistance.*



*Left: Mississippians have labored and assisted with the construction of this lower floor of the Sanjeko Church. The audience is just beginning to gather for worship on Sunday, June 8. By worship time the building was full.*

## Odessa Seminary strategic for training Russian speaking church planters

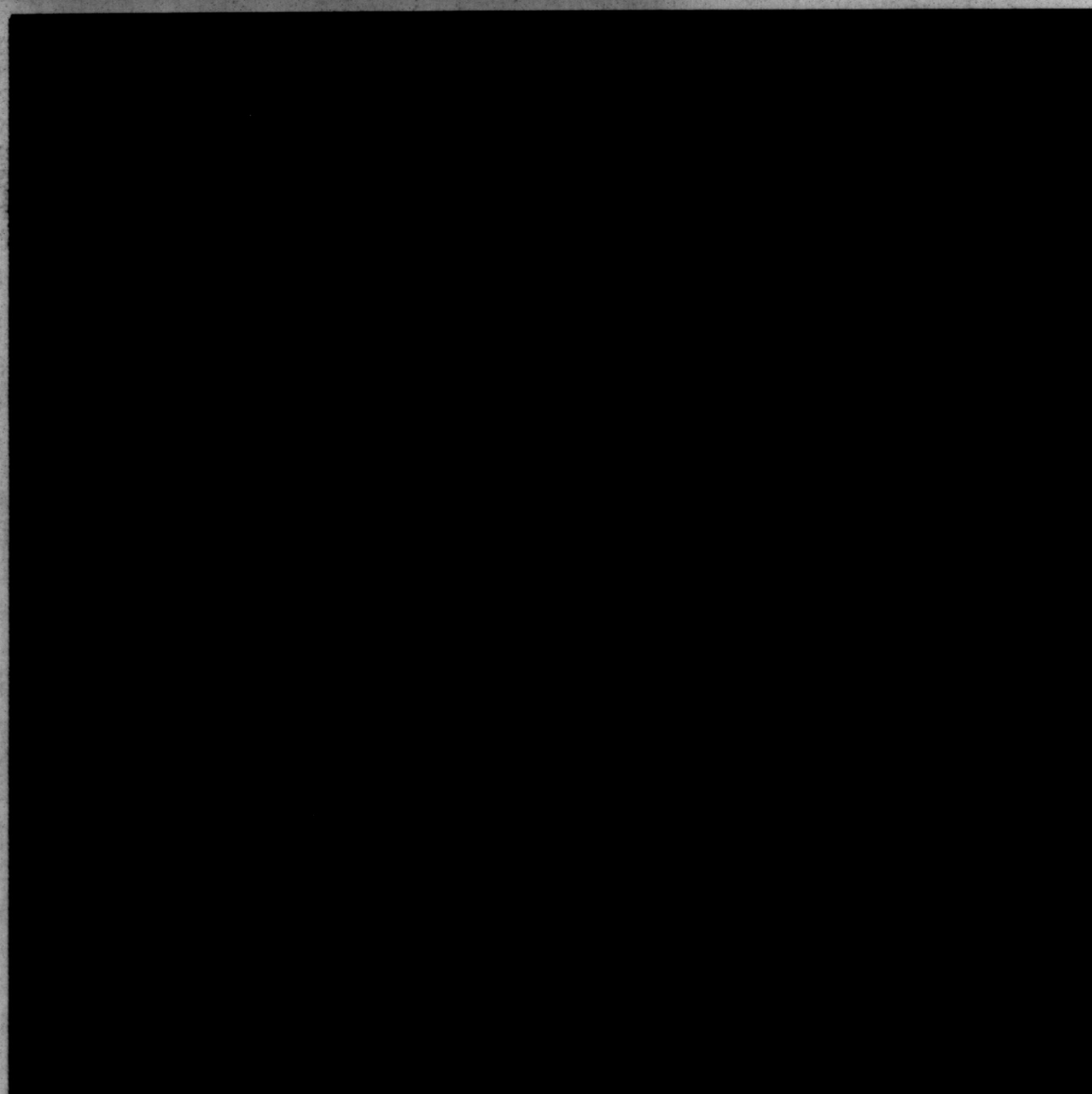
*By Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB Missions Mobilization*

Many volunteers have taught and/or led conferences and spent nights at the Odessa Theological Seminary. Pictured above is the completed kitchen and student center for which Mississippi volunteers have provided financial assistance.

The government agencies insisted this facility be updated in order for the Seminary to remain in operation.

The Seminary will be strategic for the future of training Russian speaking church planters who will be relocated to neighboring countries. Mississippi churches can be a part of this church planting movement.

(Photo by Linda Smith, IMB Volunteer Coordinator in Odessa, Ukraine.)



## Missions Opportunity!

*Involvement in the Mississippi-Ukraine Partnership is primarily through being a participant on a volunteer mission team. However, for those churches not able to provide volunteers but looking to be involved significantly, the opportunity exists to purchase a house of prayer for an existing congregation or a brand new church start.*

*Contact Ken Rhodes at the Mississippi Baptist Missions Mobilization Department for additional information.*





## Margaret Lackey offering blesses volunteers

By Ken Rhodes, director  
MBCB Missions Mobilization

(Editor's note) Many notes of thanks come to our office thanking us for Margaret Lackey Scholarships supporting their volunteer experiences. However, these thank yous belong to all Mississippi Baptists. Here are examples:

Dear Mr. Rhodes and the  
Missions Mobilization  
Department,

Thank you so much for your generous support and for agreeing to be a partner in this mission opportunity. It is our encouragement to have your prayers brought to the throne of the Lord for my team and me.

In Christ's service,  
Jennifer Sparling  
Highland Church, Laurel

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your help in securing needed funds for our Peru mission participants. There are some who can pay a portion and others who are not able to pay any of their expenses, but your help has enabled us to include them anyway. The Peruvian people depend on our group's help each year both with dental work

and the help we provide for their Christian school.

In His love,  
John G. Brock, Pastor  
Roseland Park Baptist Church  
Picayune

Dear Ken,

May God bless you so that you may continue to bless others. Thank you for your contribution to the mission trip to Romania. His eternally,  
Kathy Latch Johnson  
Oakland Church, Corinth

Dear Ken,

We have probably had our best trip to Peru yet! We had 14 saved in 2 villages! We had a freedom to share the gospel like never before. Part of it is that they now know us and we have credibility with them. We used puppets, fitting for eyeglasses that had been donated (this was a lot of fun), taught children and adults, and preached each night. The whole trip was smooth. The only problem was that all 4 water filters went bad on us and we had problems with a couple of tarantulas. We made it the last two days by rationing the water we had. The team worked wonderfully together and God really blessed us as individuals.

Thanks for your help to make trips possible, for one of the men to even take this trip. Every trip changes us as God works in us. Thanks again,  
Jerry Fuqua  
Longview Heights Church  
Olive Branch

(Editor's note) Thanks to Mississippi Baptists from Maryland/ Delaware for your impact in church planting. From the Missions Mobilization budget area, Mississippi Baptists contribute \$100,000 each year for new church starts. This provides start-up money for four new churches.

"Dear Mississippi Baptists,

I am writing to express the appreciation and thanks of Maryland and Delaware Baptists for the contribution you recently made to the work of church planting here in our convention. It will make a significant difference in the work of reaching lost and unchurched people with the Gospel in our region. As you know there are many, many such people among the over six million residents we have here within our convention. While we have made

tremendous strides in starting new churches here during the past few years, our region is still woefully underchurched. Dozens upon dozens of new churches still need to be started!

In my opinion, it is no accident that this explosion in church planting has happened during the years of our partnership with Mississippi Baptists. Your people have a deep-seated passion for the Lord, have modeled partnership before our eyes, and have been generous to a fault in the Lord's work among us! As a result, we are so much the better for it...not just financially, but spiritually. You have taught us much and challenged us through your example. These are things that we have needed. In fact, the fruits of your efforts are now in turn showing themselves in the lives of our believers and churches.

Thank you again for your dedication and application of life and resources for the advancement of His kingdom. We "thank our God upon every remembrance of you" (Phil. 1:3).

Your partner in Christ,  
J. David Jackson, Consultant  
Specialist Church Planting/  
Language Churches/Restarts  
Baptist Convention of  
Maryland/Delaware

## NE Partnerships termed overwhelming

By Paul Harrell, consultant  
MBCB Missions Mobilization

"Overwhelming" may be the best word to describe Mississippi Baptists' partnership linkage with four Baptist conventions in the Northeast. These conventions are New England, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, New York and Washington D.C. This area of our country houses 25% of the nation's population. They come in every ethnic group and major languages of the world. Many of these groups are second in size only to their native country, so the task is overwhelming to present the gospel to so many diverse people.

This year more than nine teams are scheduled to go and minister in the Impact Northeast area. Other southern state conventions will also be sending volunteer mission teams. Together, and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, they desire to make a difference in the lives of many people. If this can happen over a series of years, a strong spiritual influence will begin to take root in the Northeast. This can happen with prayer and a response to such a challenge.

Matt Henley, a third year student at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, responded to the Lord's leadership in his life. He is serving in Randolph, Vermont as a student summer missionary. Matt is serving with a Mississippi native, Jerry Smith, who is pastor of Baptist Fellowship Church in Randolph. This is the largest church in the Vermont Association and is engaged in a building project that will expand their church plant. Several Mississippi construction teams will be there this summer.

Pray that God will call out more laborers to help reap the harvest that is so ready in the Northeast. Associations and churches may explore becoming partners with associations and churches in the Northeast. Retired lay leadership can spend several months each year with a new church plant to provide a model for Christian leadership and development. There are numerous ways to serve the Lord. For more information contact the Missions Mobilization Department.



### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

on any of the mission opportunities listed in this newsletter, please contact:

Ken Rhodes  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson MS  
39205-0530

Phone:  
1(800)748-1651  
(in state)  
(601)292-3398  
(out of state)

E-mail:  
krhodes@mbcb.org

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about future  
mission opportunities.

P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
(800) 748-1651, ext. 398  
(601) 292-3398  
krhodes@mbcb.org



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Mission Friends of Webster County Association**

The Mission Friends from churches of Webster Association joined together for an afternoon at Whites Creek Lake on May 3. Walthall Church, Walthall, sponsored this event.

The RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka, were honored recently at a recognition service where they received their advancement patch and cer-

tificate. Pictured (from left, front) are Will Laciura, Sawyer Ott, Brennan Welch, Tyler Cutrer, (back) Chet Wilson, Mitchell Aucoin, Greg Stevens, Major Gill, and Chris Aych. Suzanne Cutrer and Cramen Welch are leaders. Milton Kliesch is pastor.

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, recognized Mike Smith for 7 years of dedication

as usher chairman on June 1. Pictured (from left) are Ken Kirk, pastor, and Mike Smith.

Southway Church, Brookhaven, recently ordained Kevin Thompson to the ministry. He currently serves as pastor of Damascus Church, Brookhaven. Pictured (from left) Jeff King, Thompson, his wife Kim, and Leon Wallace, pastor.

Pine Lake Church, Vancleave, licensed Jeremy Simpson, youth pastor, to the ministry on May 25. Pictured (from left) are Simpson and Rusty Sumrall, pastor.

Harrell McClelland presented John Lee Moak with a plack of appreciation from Moak's

Creek Church, Summit, for 7 years of service on the cemetery committee on May 18.

First Church, Blackhawk, will hold VBS on July 21-25 from 6:30-9 p.m. Commencement services will be held July 27 at 6 p.m.



**Ken Kirk, pastor, and Mike Smith**



**McClelland and Moak**



**Jeremy Simpson and Rusty Sumrall**



**Jeff King, Kevin & Kim Thompson, and Leon Wallace**



**RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka**

## Thought About Making a Recording?

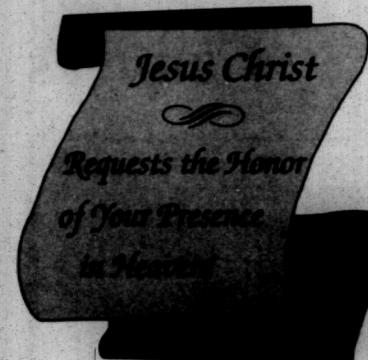
Artists such as The Daniels Quartet • Southern Melody • Keith Graves • Kathy Starnes • Sid Taylor • Debbie Kirk • Joe Styron • Butch Franklin • Terri Chenault • Heavenly Hearts • Jan Walley • JoAnn Green • Sue Pope • The Agricola Baptist Church Choir and Singers have all done just that! Now you can too!

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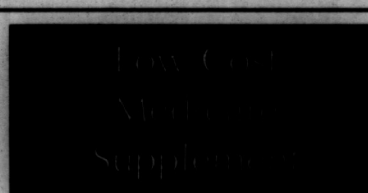
### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name *(John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

### Staff Changes

First Church, Picayune, has recently called Daniel Lee as Minister of Music. Lee is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and comes from First Church, Magee.



Lee

Emily Garner, Magnolia, is serving on staff at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. Garner attends Silver Creek Church, Pike County, and attends Southwest Mississippi Community College.



Garner

First Church, Picayune, recently called Frank Gunn as Interim Preaching Pastor. Gunn retired serving as pastor of the First Church, Biloxi. Gunn is a graduate of Mississippi College and the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.



Gunn

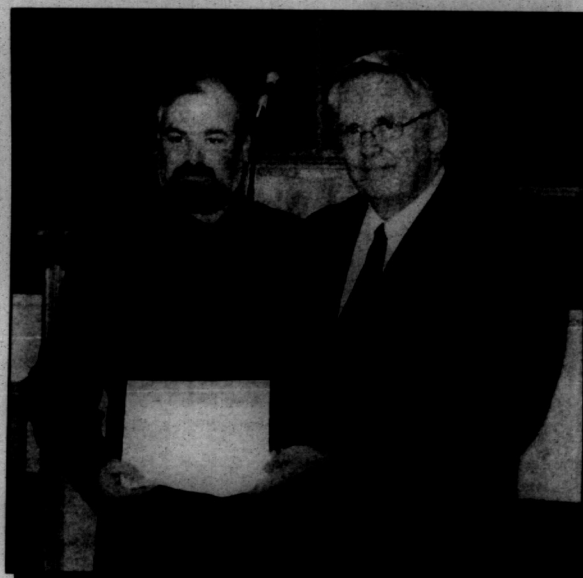


Buse

Oakland Church, Walnut, recently called and ordained Robert Buse as Assoc./Youth Minister.

Shiloh Church, Oxford, ordained Derek Starnes to the ministry on June 1. Pictured (from left) are David Thomas, pastor of Shiloh, Starnes, Kevin Purdon, and Kevin Chrestman.

Shady Grove Church, Batesville, ordained Russell Robertson to the ministry on May 4. Robertson is currently the Senior Adult Discipleship Trainer. Pictured (from left) are Robertson and Terry Tribble, pastor.



Robertson and Tribble, pastor

Dustin Mixon was recently baptized by Michael Glenn at Tylertown Church, Tylertown. Mixon's baptism followed the presentation of God's plan of salvation by Benny Graves in the church's Jail Ministry. Mixon's aunt also accepted Christ.



Mixon and Glenn

Bethany Church, Bay Springs, will hold VBS July 21 at 6 p.m. through July 25 at 7 p.m. for children who are 3 years through 6th grade. A small meal will be served Mon.-Thurs. at 5:30 p.m. and refreshments will follow the commencement service on Friday. For more information, call (601) 764-9289 or (601) 789-5261.

ful service with a reception. Pictured (from left) are Mike Everett, Montgomery, and her husband Charlie.



John Thomas, Ruby Fletcher, and Fletcher

Gunter Road Church, Florence, will hold VBS July 20-23. Sunday evening will be from 6-8:30 p.m. and Mon.-Wed. will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A family get together will be held Friday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 932-4134 or (601) 939-1739.

Gilead Church, Meridian, held revival services June 23-26 with evangelist Danny Lanier, Little Rock. Fifteen accepted Christ along with numerous rededications. Jim Rickles is pastor.

Steele Church, Scott Association, recently held VBS. The attendance was 70 with 3 professions of faith.

Oakland Church, Walnut, recently held a ground breaking service for their Christian Life Center. Sean Taylor is pastor.

Rose Mary Montgomery recently announced her retirement as administrative assistant for the Scott County Baptist Association. The association recognized her years of faith-



Thomas, Starnes, Purdon, and Chrestman



Everett, Rose Mary, and Charlie Montgomery



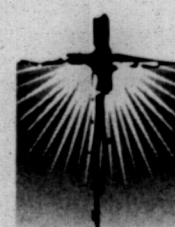
Tom Myers and Randall Rich

Tom Myers announced his retirement as Minister to Senior Adults and Outreach at Prentiss Church, Prentiss. Myers was honored with a reception and a staff luncheon. Pictured (from left) are Myers, and Randall Rich, pastor.

Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland, recently ordained Alex Fletcher. Pictured (from left) are John Thomas, pastor, Fletcher's mother Ruby, and Fletcher.



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## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

**Hickory Grove, Sumrall:** July 20-25; Sunday, 10 a.m., a fellowship meal will be served; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, preaching; Phillip Butler, music.

**Corinth, Purvis:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Holland, Clinton, La., evangelist; Danny Shows, Moselle, music evangelist; for more information, call (601) 794-6918; David Strebeck, pastor.

**Springfield, Morton:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner will follow; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jerry W. Mixon, MBCB, guest evangelist; Randy Cutchens, First, Newton, music; Frank Lay, pastor.

**Mount Olive, Smithdale:** July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, Conehatta, preaching; Greg Duncan, Jerusalem, Ponchatoula, La., and Mark Calcote, music.

**Thompson, Smithdale:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Major Speights, guest pastor; Doug Moak, worship; Robert K. Speights, pastor.

**Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven:** July 2; 100th anniversary; worship, 9:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; John McCall, speaking; for more information, call (601) 835-1821.

**Antioch, Brandon:** July 27-

August 1; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Daniel Hathorne, First, Coffeeville, evangelist; Burt and Suzanne Stanton, music; Anthony Kay, interim pastor.

**Antioch, Brandon:** July 27; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish will be served; Larry Duncan, former pastor, guest speaker; Natalie Duncan, music.

**Lone Star, Collins:** July 20-25; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dennis Campbell, Williamsburg, Collins, evangelist; Donna Campbell, music; L.C. Anthony, pastor.

**Center Grove, Meridian:** July 27-30; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Anis Shorrosh, evangelist; for more information, call (601) 693-1440.

**Crooked Creek, Silver Creek:** August 3; a covered dish will be served; Pat Nations, preaching; Gloryland Quartet, music; Jimmy Jones, pastor.

**Lone Pine, Florence:** July 20-23; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., lunch and an afternoon service will follow; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Fulton McGraw, speaking and music; for more information, call (601) 924-4690.

**Ludlow, Ludlow:** July 20-25; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Wilson, speaker; Tal Vardman,

music; M.L. Wallace, pastor.

**Mission Hill, Wesson:** July 20-23; Sunday, 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m., lunch will be served; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, evangelist.

**Topisaw, Bogue Chitto:** July 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Step Martin, evangelist; Price Harris, music; David Moree, pastor.

**Terry's Creek, Magnolia:** July 20-23; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., covered dish at noon, 6 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tracey Hipps, evangelist; Don Brown, music; Johnnie Place, pastor.

**Pleasant Hill, New Hebron:** July 20-22; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Ken Harrison, Kennedy Springs, Magee, evangelist; Dale Townsend, Whitesand, Prentiss, music; Lloyd Wilson, pastor.

**Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto:** July 20-23; Campers on Mission will be in charge of services;

Danny Moss, pastor; all are welcome.

**Camp Creek, Guntown:** July 20-23; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; P. J. Scott, First, Olive Branch, evangelist; Jerry Bishop, music.

**McCool, McCool:** July 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Pate, Parkway, Kosciusko, preaching; Hugh Ballard, Slringle, Attala, music.

**Hickory Grove, Sumrall:** July 20-25; Sunday, 10 a.m., lunch will follow, and 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, preaching; Phillip Butler, music.

**Campground, Water Valley:** July 20-23; Johnny Sykes, evangelist; Emon White, pastor.

**Concord, Pelahatchie:** July 20-23, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Sullivan, evangelist; Larry Beasley, music; Billy McKay, pastor.



Children of Hillcrest Church, Byram

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

VBS was recently held at **Priceville Church, Tupelo**. The children held a penny drive and raised \$540 for the Baptist Children's Village. Barbara Alexander was the director. Tim Tutor is pastor.

The children of **Hillcrest Church, Byram**, participate in their monthly game show, *The Bible Is Always Right*. Pictured (from left) are Sara Todd, Kabrina Kidd, Taylor Rigby, and Austin Price.

The **RAs of Madden Church, Madden**, held a walk-a-thon to raise money for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. They raised \$125.



RAs of Madden Church, Madden

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:**

Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

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**WALTON COUNTY BAPTIST Association** seeking Director of Missions. Send resume to DOM search committee, c/o Terry Smith, 1901 State Highway 2 E, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32464.



Priceville Church VBS Participants, Tupelo

**MID-SIZED CHURCH SEEKING PART-** time (potential full-time) minister of music, Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Must lead adult choir. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume (601) 795-4696.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH** needed at Briarwood Baptist Church, Meridian, MS. Send resume to Briarwood Baptist Church, attn: Personnel Committee, 8733 Hillview Drive, Meridian, MS 39305 or call (601) 681-6615.

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Brandon, Miss. is seeking a part-time worship leader. This position will be bi-vocational with the possibility of full-time in the future. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 398, Brandon, MS 39043. **FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IS** now taking applications and resumes for Minister of music/worship. Send all info, including accurate references to Dr. Buster Wilson, Friendship Church, 1389 Main Street, Ecu, MS 38841.

**AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH IN** TUPELO, Miss., is now actively seek-

ing a pastor. Interested pastors are asked to send resumes with picture to: pastor search committee, 1138 Road 931, Tupelo, MS 38804 or email [Auburnbaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:Auburnbaptist@bellsouth.net).

**PART-TIME MINISTER TO STUDENTS,** Noxapater Baptist Church is looking for a part-time student minister to work with grades 7-12. Work requirements are Wednesdays and weekends. For more info contact: Noxapater Baptist Church, student minister search committee, P.O. Box 251, Noxapater, MS 39346, phone (662) 724-2156.

## Baptist World Alliance adds CBF to rolls

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (ABP, BP, and local reports) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) was elected to full membership in the Baptist World Alliance July 11 despite strong opposition from Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) representatives. The 75-28 vote by the BWA General Council came two years after CBF's initial application for membership. The vote also followed a decision last month by SBC messengers to reduce BWA funding by more than 30%.

Some BWA officials expressed concern last year that CBF was not a separate entity as required by BWA membership rules, but rather a splinter group within the SBC. In June of 2002, however, CBF Coordinator Dan Vestal was quoted in a Baptist Press article as stating, "Officially, CBF — the organization — has never been a part of the SBC. We have our own bylaws, a constitution, a budget," he said. "We do not function like convention churches because we are a fellowship of churches and individuals."



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Good News! Free to Serve

Galatians 4:8-5:15

By Karen Hollowell

Every July 4th our country observes Independence Day. It is typically a day of ceremonies and celebrations in remembrance of freedom and those who fought and sacrificed in order that we might enjoy freedom. As Americans, we often think of freedom in terms of rights-individual liberties. In the Biblical perspective, freedom is not a guarantee that we can do things because we have a right to, but a guarantee that we have the liberty to love and serve each other because of the grace of God.

Paul, writing to the Galatians, continues to emphasize the freedom that they have in Christ. He further admonishes them not to be slaves to the law, but to be in "bondage" to the doctrine of

grace. In Chap. 4 and 5 of Galatians, Paul writes of the deep concern he has that the Judizers (teaching grace and law) have managed to confuse and influence the believers to the extent that he (Paul) was now being seen as the enemy. He even feared that the time he spent there may have been in vain (Ch.4:11). Paul cared so deeply for them that his heart was breaking over this dilemma.

In the rest of Ch. 4, Paul uses an allegory to illustrate his point. He briefly summarizes the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar in hopes that such a well-known narrative could help them see their position as slaves to law. Hagar's child as well as Mt Sinai represent slavery. Isaac and the New Jerusalem represent grace

Hollowell

not to be enslaved again. If they are under obligation to any part of the law (as circumcision), then they become obligated to the entire law. There is no justification in this. Verse 4 is an often debated scripture relating to this issue. Paul says, "You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace." He is not saying that they had lost salvation. This was settled at the cross. He is saying that they have left the doctrine of grace and again become enslaved to the dictates of the law.

Paul continues to encour-

age the Christians at Galatia not to allow the truth that they had learned to be distorted by those with false teachings. Ch. 4, verse 9 says, "But now that you know God-or rather are known by God-how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?"

Salvation and our relationship with God is imitated by God. It is grace from beginning to end. Why then would we wish to go backwards and give up the wonderful freedom that God gave us when He drew us to Him?

In verses 13-15 of Chapter 5, Paul gives us an insight into freedom and what it is not. It is not license to indulge every impulse of the flesh or to misuse our rights and privileges for our selfish natures. It is freedom in Christ to love and serve one another.

In fact he tells us here that the entire law can be summed in the command to love your

neighbor as yourself. It is only through Christ, however, that we are able to love this way. Without this love, we are limited in our Christian potential. We will never know the joy of true freedom as Christ desires for us. In verse 15, Paul gives a most unsettling description of the opposite of loving service: "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Some people may think this only applies to a new church, like the one in Galatia, but God's word is applicable to all times, people, and situations. Even lifelong Christians can fall into this trap. Churches today would do well to heed Paul's advice. In true, Christ-like love, churches can overcome the obstacles that hinder growth and service to each other and the community, especially those who are lost.

Hollowell is member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Be Responsible

Galatians 6:1-18

By Kiely Young

It has been said by many that the Christian army is the only army that buries its wounded soldiers. We are often quick to judge, and slow to restore. Paul would tell us the same was true with the churches of Galatia. The legalistic brethren, who had all the answers, were very quick to judge anyone not in line with their way of thinking. Paul would remind us that our calling is to reconciliation of fallen believers and not that of judge and executioner.

**I. We must Be Alert (6:1-6).**

The legalist is led to add burdens, not bear them. Paul admonishes us to come to their aid for restoration. When the Pharisees brought the adulteress to Jesus, they only had in mind the carrying out of judg-

ment, stoning her to death. Jesus was interested in her redemption. Our responsibility is the same, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (v. 2). The legalist is always looking out for his own benefit. Restoration is not a part of his program. Self-exaltation is always an issue. The believer looks at the fallen brother and realizes it could just have easily been himself. Therefore, he wants to go the extra mile for restoration, not condemnation, for he realizes that he too is walking in grace.

Paul says further every believer must examine himself carefully lest he be deceived. He must "prove his own work." As Warren Wiersbe states, "There is no room for competition in the work of God, unless

Young

we are competing against sin and Satan. We must realize that our primary responsibility is living our life, using our abilities for the glory of God, not for our own kingdom building."

**II. We must Be Aware (6:7-10).**

Paul gives us a lesson in the spiritual laws that God has put in place to guide and bless us as we serve Him and our fellow man. Essentially, "whatever a man sows that he will also reap." (v. 7) We shall reap what we sow, where we sow, and in proportion as we have sown. Then God promises "we shall reap if we do not lose heart". While some may receive immediate accolades for their work, we may have to be patient and wait on the Lord's timing. But as we wait, Paul admonishes us to "do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith".

Walking in faith, and by grace, we soon understand as believers we are a part of Kingdom work. The kind

actions of love and mercy will return in like fashion, but so will the deeds of spite, greed, jealousy, selfishness, and being judgmental. "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." You cannot out give God's love. He blesses beyond human understanding; neither will His laws be violated without consequences.

**III. We must Be On Guard (6:11-18).**

Paul wants the attention of his Galatian readers as he brings his letter to a conclusion. He says "See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand." (v. 11) It was the custom of Paul to dictate his letters, but he wanted them to understand the importance of his words. He wants to impress his readers with the great difference between grace and legalism. The legalists are self-centered (desire to make a good showing in the flesh, v. 12) and self-serving (they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ, v. 12). They deal in strong persuasion (desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh, v. 13).

They are hypocrites (not even those who are circumcised keep the law, v. 13).

Paul understood first hand what it meant to walk in the Lordship of Christ. He loved the Lord and knew the power of the Cross. He also knew the real purpose of the Cross. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation" (v. 15). Our purpose is to so live before men the grace of the Lord Jesus that they may see, understand and accept His love and mercy.

We do not satisfy the plan of God just by the keeping of laws and rituals and following the seasons of man. God wants a heart of faith walking in the righteousness of Christ. Paul wanted the Galatians to understand that truth and not revert to legalism. Christ wants us to live by grace and walk in liberty. He paid the ultimate price that we may have complete freedom. When we accept His righteousness, we begin to experience His power.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Bill Causey, Interim Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
e-mail: bcvl@misnet.com  
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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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# Deacon laid to rest after Meridian tragedy

LITTLE ROCK, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Mickey Fitzgerald, one of six Lockheed Martin employees killed in a shooting rampage at the company's Meridian plant on July 8, was remembered as a loving father and husband and as a man of God during his funeral on July 11 at Hopewell Church in Little Rock.

"Mickey Fitzgerald was a man among men," said Jimmy McDill, pastor of Hopewell Church, where Fitzgerald was a deacon. He also described Fitzgerald as a man of character and conscience.

tion with an African-American employee at the plant, and was sent home on another occasion when he refused to remove makeshift headgear that resembled a Ku Klux Klan hood.

While Williams' girlfriend Shirley Price contended he was "driven" to the point of shooting his co-workers, other Lockheed Martin employees described Williams as a "ticking time bomb." Security at the plant has been described since the shootings as light.

On any normal day at the Lockheed Martin plant, electrician Mark Roberts is several feet off the ground, on a hydraulic lift, working in the ceiling. On July 8, for some reason, he was not.

On the day Williams would enter the plant and kill five people, a hose on his hydraulic lift broke. Instead of in being in the air, Roberts, a deacon at Northcrest Church in Meridian, was on the floor.

When the gunman entered the building, Roberts was able to run.

"I've been wondering, what would have happened if I was had still been up in that ceiling? I would have been a sitting duck," he told Baptist Press.

Roberts said the hydraulic lift hose "never" breaks, but it broke July 8 "for no apparent reason." He works as an electrical contractor and has been posted at Lockheed Martin lately.

"It's just God's mercy that I wasn't in the ceiling," he said. "I'm thankful for that."

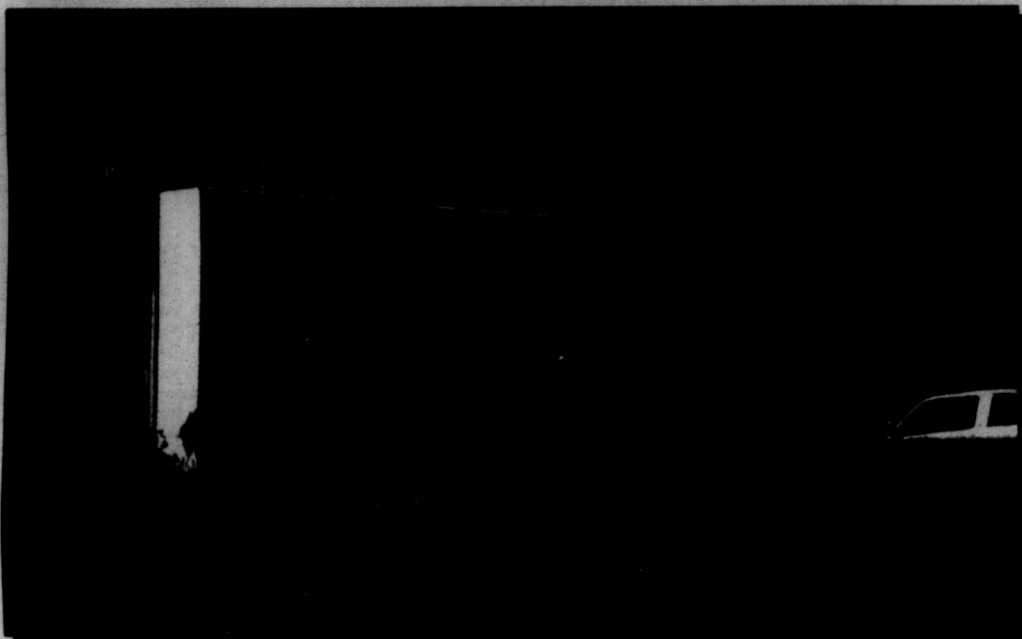
As it turned out, Roberts was roughly 50 feet from one of the victims. When the gunman entered the factory and began shooting, Roberts was unsure what to make of the noise.

"I heard four shots, but at the time I did not know they were shots," he said. Roberts thought it was something exploding in the factory.

"Then I heard a scream. A bunch of



**TRAGEDY'S AFTERMATH** — Mickey Fitzgerald's wife Tammie (center) leaves Hopewell Church in Little Rock on July 11 after her husband's funeral service. Mickey Fitzgerald was one of five Lockheed Martin employees gunned down at the company's Meridian plant on July 8. Mickey Fitzgerald had been a deacon at Hopewell Church and is remembered as a man of God. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



**SHOOTING SCENE** — Doug Williams, a worker at the Lockheed Martin aircraft parts plant in Meridian, shot several people in an annex building before entering the main building and shooting several people there. At least eight people were wounded; six, including the gunman, were killed. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

McDill, while speaking at the funeral, said Fitzgerald may have played a role in trying to stop the shooter, based on a report in The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson.

"Some say Mickey Fitzgerald tried to stand in the way," McDill said. "That's the man Mickey was — a man of peace... For that peace, he shed his blood."

Fitzgerald had worked at the plant 23 years. He leaves behind his wife Tammie and two children.

"Mickey was just a down-to-earth kind [of person]," McDill told Baptist Press after the shooting. "... He reflected the life of Christ.... He's the kind [of person] that when something like this happens, it takes the wind out of your sails. He was that kind of an individual."

More than 300 people attended the funeral, after which the procession moved to a cemetery beside the church for a short graveside prayer. McDill said although it was evident the family was dealing with a great deal of grief, they are being supported by the Hopewell church family.

Just as Fitzgerald touched lives through his church, the pastor said, the church now is reaching out to his family in love.

Fitzgerald was killed when a gunman entered the aircraft parts plant and began firing. The gunman, Doug Williams, a longtime worker at the plant, left a business ethics class he was attending in an annex building, changed into camouflage beside his pickup in the parking lot, and reentered the building with a shotgun and a high-powered rifle.

He shot several people in the annex building, including Fitzgerald, before entering the main building and shooting several people there before taking his life as his girlfriend, also a plant employee, pleaded with him to lay down his guns.

Of the eight additional people injured in Williams' attack, three remained hospitalized in critical condition at press time on July 15.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, public reports indicate that Williams was taking prescription medication for depression and may have harbored long-simmering racial hatreds. Co-workers said he had an alterca-

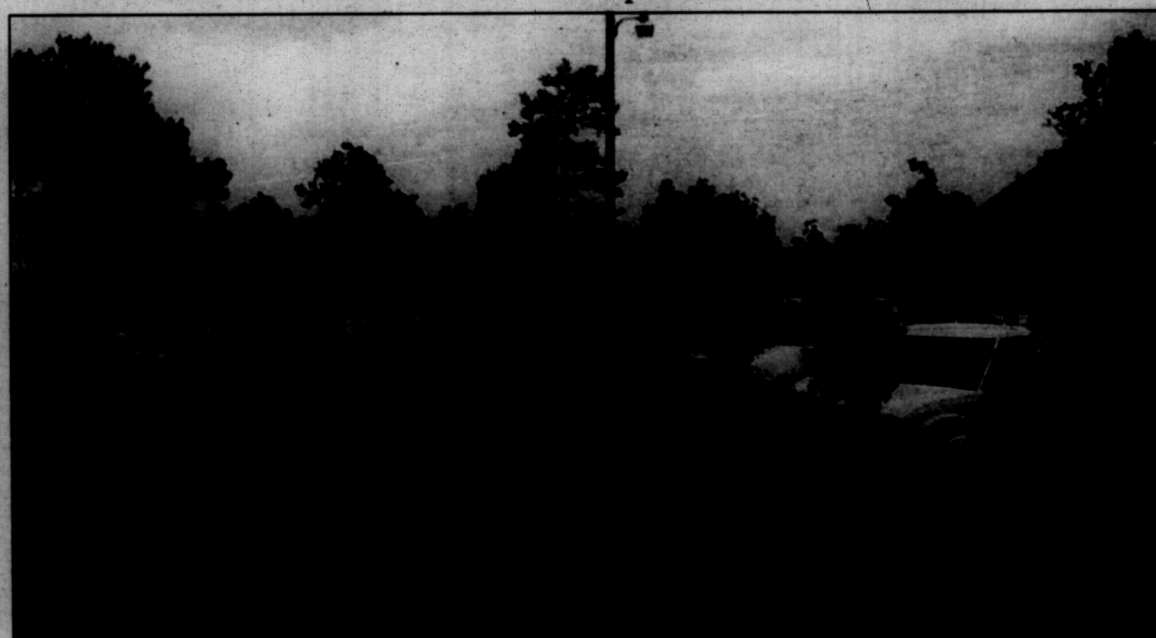
people started running," and Roberts said he followed. "When I was running to the back [toward an exit] I saw a trail of blood, and that's when it hit me that somebody was shooting."

Roberts bumped into another electrician with whom he had been working. His friend, in fact, said the gunman pointed the gun at him but did not fire. Roberts said they had "no idea" why the gunman didn't shoot.

The employees took cover outside the plant while police swarmed the building. Roberts said he prayed several times.

"I wasn't scared to death," he said. "Everything was calm with me. ...I can't really explain it."

Later in the day Roberts went to Northcrest Church to visit with his pastor, Malcolm Lewis. "He was pretty shook up but he was so grateful that the Lord had spared his life," Lewis said.



**FINAL FAREWELL** — Following the funeral service for Mickey Fitzgerald, mourners moved to a cemetery beside Hopewell Baptist Church in Little Rock, Miss., for a graveside prayer. Pastor Jimmy McDill said though it was evident the Fitzgerald family was dealing with a great deal of grief over the tragedy, they were being supported by their church family at Hopewell. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Bibliocipher

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SJG AQJI RGA BJA R KJW

AQRA QRAQ LTURPIGU

VB EVHZUWBUPP:

BUVAQUG PQRTT UOVT

WEUTT EVAQ AQUU.

LPRTXP SVOU: SJIG

Clue: P = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Job 10:7